

- 32 -

**Abstract:**

The present invention relates to powdered, cross-linked polymer compositions, containing

- a) 55 - 99.9 wt.-% of at least one polymerized, ethylenically unsaturated, polymerizable monomer which contains acid groups neutralized to at least 25 mole-%,
- b) 0 - 40 wt.-% of polymerized, unsaturated monomers copolymerizable with a),
- c) 0.01 - 5.0 wt.-%, preferably 0.1 - 2.0 wt.-% of one or more crosslinking agents,
- d) 0 - 30 wt.-% of a water-soluble polymer,

the weight amounts a) through d) being based on anhydrous polymer composition, and the sum of these components always being 100 wt.-%, which compositions can be obtained by continuous polymerization wherein at least one parameter biasing the polymerization is varied according to a recurring pattern. The present invention also relates to a process for their production and to their use.